(b) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto;

(c) whether there is an actual shortage of LPG in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) and (b) Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) have not stopped release of new LPG connections. New LPG connections are made available as soon as possible and in any case, within a period of sixty days. At present, new LPG connections are available for genuine domestic customers and as on 01.11.2008, there are 1036.9 lakh LPG customers in the country.

OMCs have reported that they have released 25.64 lakh new LPG connections in the country during the period April-October, 2008.

(c) and (d) OMCs have reported that at present, there is no overall shortage of LPG in the country and LPG to distributors are being made by the OMCs through indigenous production and imports in accordance with the genuine demand of customers registered with the LPG distributors. Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOC) has reported backlog in LPG supplies in the States of Kerala, Manipur and Tamil Nadu mainly because of spurt in demand due to the economic blockade in Manipur, transporter agitation and various bandhs in Kerala and heavy rains in most parts of Tamil Nadu including Chennai. Government has advised OMCs to liquidate the backlog in the States by operating the bottling plants on holidays and during extended hours.

Supply of naptha for power generation in Kerala

1672. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there are many plants based on Naptha and Low Sulphur High Speed (LSHS) for power generation in Kerala;

(b) if so, the details of above fuels supplied to above plants including price of fuel, excise duty on fuel, quantity of fuel and the actual cost of fuel per unit power generated for the last three years, year-wise, plant-wise, fuel-wise, category-wise;

(c) if so, whether competent authority of Kerala had represented during May, 2007 to provide Naptha and LSHS and for power generation at an affordable price and exempt excise duty Countervailing Duties (CVD) for these fuel for power generation;

(d) if so, the action taken thereon; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL): (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Export of natural gas

†1673. SHRI PRABHAT JHA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi